GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:322
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Expansion of Solar Power
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced the Generation Based Incentive Scheme for generating electricity from solar energy and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether scarcity of land is a major challenge for the expansion of solar power in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to overcome the scarcity of land for further expansion of solar energy sector in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL & NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 322 (2nd Priority) FOR ANSWER ON 08.12.2016 REGARDING
EXPANSION OF SOLAR POWER

(a): Yes, Madam. The Government had already announced two Generation Based Incentive (GBI) Schemes for solar power projects. The details of the schemes are as under:
(i) Rooftop PV & Small Solar Power Generation Programme (RPSSGP) Scheme:
To give a thrust to Rooftop PV development, small solar power generation plants (100 kW to 2 MW) are being provided GBI to the projects registered during 2010-11. The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), is designated as the Implementing Agency for this Scheme. Under the scheme, GBI is provided for 25 years from the date of commissioning. A total of 72 projects of 91.8 MW in 13 states, are registered and commissioned under the scheme.

(ii) Demonstration Solar GBI Scheme
To develop & demonstrate mega-watt capacity grid interactive solar power generation in the country, Demonstration Solar GBI Scheme was announced in January, 2008. Under the Scheme, GBI is provided for 10 years from the date of commissioning. A total of six projects of 18 MW are registered under the Scheme.

(b): Yes, Madam. Around 5 acres of land per MW of solar power projects is required. Both private and revenue land is allowed for this purpose. Acquisition of land with sufficient solar radiation is a challenge.

(c): The Government has planned to overcome the challenge by launching the following schemes:
(i) Development of solar parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects;
(ii) Development of Solar Zones in the country; and
(iii) Roof-top solar projects.

Solar parks are common development areas for solar power projects and offer the developers location/land, with prior approvals, that is well characterized with proper infrastructure and access to amenities and where the risk of the projects can be minimized.
Under Solar Zone scheme, a large zone with solar radiation and other requirements is identified for solar projects. The land is to be arranged by the solar project developers.
Under Roof-top solar scheme, land is not required and rather projects are established at roof-tops of the existing buildings.
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